

P A T E N T

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Mueller, et al. )  
Application No.: )  
Filed: Herewith )  
For: **CLOSURE DEVICE FOR A PUNCTURE  
CHANNEL AND APPLICATOR DEVICE** )

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as Express Mail (No. EV 129898313 US) addressed to MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 26, 2004.

By: Carol Prentice  
Carol Prentice

**MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants wish to call the attention of the Examiner to the following references:

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS:

<u>Country</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date of Publication</u>
EPO	0 544 485	Jun 02, 1993

The reference listed above was cited by the German Examiner in Applicants' corresponding German patent application 103 10 995.1 (MPEP §2001.06(a)).

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**OTHER U.S. PATENTS:**

<b><u>Patent No.</u></b>	<b><u>Patentee</u></b>	<b><u>Date of Issue</u></b>
5,053,046	Janese	Oct 01, 1991
5,944,730	Nobles, et al.	Aug 31, 1999

**OTHER FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS:**

<b><u>Country</u></b>	<b><u>No.</u></b>	<b><u>Date of Publication</u></b>
International	95/29635	Nov 09, 1995
Germany	100 27 186	Dec 20, 2001

The above-listed references are mentioned in the present application.

Copies of the above-listed foreign references are enclosed, together with a completed form PTO-1449.

An English language abstract is attached to DE 100 27 186.

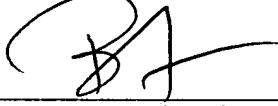
Consideration of these references by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive

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Mueller, et al.  
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any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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**Date: February 26, 2004  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: HOE-803**

<b>FORM PTO-1449</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>			<b>ATTY. DOCKET NO.:</b> HOE-803		<b>SERIAL NO.:</b>		
			<b>APPLICANT(S):</b> Mueller, et al.				
			<b>FILING DATE:</b> Herewith		<b>GROUP:</b>		
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
<b>EXAMINER INITIAL</b>		<b>DOCUMENT NUMBER</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>CLASS</b>	<b>SUB-CLASS</b>	<b>FILING DATE</b>
	AA	5,053,046	10/01/1991	Janese			
	AB	5,944,730	08/31/1999	Nobles, et al.			
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
		<b>DOCUMENT NUMBER</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>CLASS</b>	<b>SUB-CLASS</b>	<b>TRANSLATION YES NO</b>
	AC	0 544 485	06/02/1993	EPO			
	AD	95/29635	11/09/1995	International			
	AE	100 27 186	12/20/2001	Germany			
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)</b>							
<b>EXAMINER</b>			<b>DATE CONSIDERED</b>				
<b>EXAMINER:</b> Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							